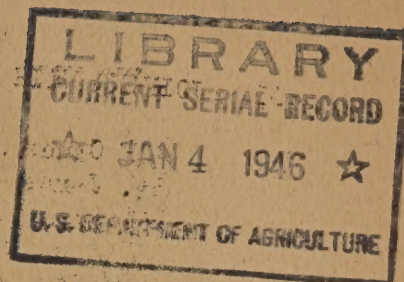


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New 4-H Club program trains rural youth

to meet the problems of a changing world

For the past 4 years, 4-H Clubs have concentrated most of their energies on growing "food to feed a fighter." Now the war is over leaving in its wake many knotty problems for farmers and rural people. Youth, with training and some direction, can play an important part in meeting these problems. To facilitate this contribution of youth, the 4-H Club program has been broadened and 10 points developed as guideposts to local clubs in building a program which will meet their own needs based on the problems youth face in their own communities.

These 10 guideposts were developed by a committee of Federal, State, and county 4-H Club leaders working on the program for the past year. These 10 points are being discussed by all State 4-H Club leaders and by about 1,000 4-H delegates at the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago December 2-6, and the program will be adopted there. The 10 points in the program, with examples of the type of work which is being carried on under each phase of the program, are given below. The examples are not inclusive but will just give some idea of what the committee had in mind.

#### I. DEVELOPING TALENTS FOR GREATER USEFULNESS

This is one of the major aims of 4-H Club work. Tomorrow's leader will need skill. Skill in managing a dairy business is what the five Ralston children of Tippecanoe County, Indiana found in their 4-H Club. Starting with a purebred Guernsey calf, the eldest brother started a retail milk route as soon as she came into production. His two younger sisters started as soon as they were old enough and formed a partnership, the girls managing the milk house and delivering the milk. Bob and the girls all paid their way through college with the dairy; then the twins took it over. They are now 17 years old, have a paying business, and are skilled and successful dairymen with modern equipment. Talents developed by young leaders are later passed on to the whole community as in the case of Gordon Hanson of Griggs County, North Dakota who learned about sheep in his 4-H Club work and now, a successful young farmer, runs a traveling sheep-dipping tank and does custom dipping throughout the county. Plans call for dipping more than 5,000 head for other sheep owners in the neighborhood.



## II. JOINING WITH FRIENDS FOR WORK, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP

4-H Clubs acknowledge the need of balancing work with fun. The St. James Club in a small Maryland community illustrates this. The young folks suddenly found that war conditions made it impossible to get into town to the movies and to see their friends. They hung around the filling station and got into trouble. A 4-H Club was organized and met every Saturday night in the Sunday school room of the community church for games. They had such a good time they decided to redecorate the Sunday school room to show their appreciation. They scraped and varnished the floors, painted the furniture and the woodwork a cool green, and painted the walls a warm cream. It kept them so busy and they were so proud of the attractive room that there was no more complaint. In fact, the St. James 4-H Club is the biggest asset in the town. They have made a record collecting scrap, growing gardens, as well as with games, hikes, and fun.

## III. LEARNING TO LIVE IN A CHANGING WORLD

Science and research are changing farming practices all the time. Young folks can make these changes easier sometimes than the older ones. In the past, 4-H baby beef projects have had much to do with the practice of marketing beef earlier; new varieties of field crops have been demonstrated by 4-H Clubs. In the future, there may be even more necessity to keep up not only with new discoveries but with changing economic conditions and markets. Boys of a Texas county are starting in on the trends in marketing but accompany their 4-H animals to the Kansas City market. These and educational tours to primary markets, industrial processing plants, and neighboring cities have done much to help 4-H members become familiar not only with various enterprises indirectly bearing on the job of farming but also with other ways of making a living. In Maryland the Senior 4-H county councils are holding short courses for young people which partake of the nature of a career clinic.

## IV. CHOOSING A WAY TO EARN A LIVING

Through 4-H Clubs, those best fitted to stay on the farm can see the possibilities of making a living, and those who leave the farm can develop some skill and strengthen their moral fiber through club work. The young farmers tours in New Hampshire have enabled boys to visit successful farms in their neighborhood and study the practices and management which have made that particular farm profitable.



## V. PRODUCING FOOD AND FIBER FOR HOME AND MARKET

This phase of 4-H Club programs will mobilize young people to help raise the total of farm income by teaching them how to analyze the farming pattern on the home farm and develop supplemental enterprises. It will help them raise the general standard of rural living by demonstrating that a higher nutrition level can be reached through home production of a goodly part of the seven basic food groups. This is a field in which they proved their prowess with the following wartime record of production:

Victory Gardens grown.....	1,000,000 acres
Poultry owned.....	43,000,000 birds
Livestock grown.....	2,700,000 head
Products canned.....	74,000,000 quarts

## VI. CREATING BETTER HOMES FOR BETTER LIVING

In nearly every 4-H Club activity, at least some emphasis is placed on the home. Young people are constantly learning how to make the home more attractive and convenient, to share responsibilities, and to live happily together. One phase of the program was emphasized in the recent N. D. Achievement Institute when 492 young folks built their entire program around the theme, "The homes we live in." What a good 4-H Club program can mean was shown in the experiences of a young Nebraska girl, Fay Lewis, who had to take over the duties of homemaking when her mother died. The family moved to a new farm, and the whole club undertook the problem of making the house just right. They arranged the furniture, made the curtains, re-finished the floors, and finished with a home of which any girl could be proud.

## VII. CONSERVING NATURE'S RESOURCES FOR SECURITY AND HAPPINESS

The conservation of natural resources is acknowledged as important to the welfare of the Nation. There are many ways in which young folks can share in this. The Escambia County, Fla., 4-H Council recently launched a timber-grazing-game demonstration with a 400-acre tract. In developing this tract, the boys will demonstrate the most constructive, practical, and profitable use of cut-over timberland in Florida. A young Kansan, Earl Brown, made his community soil conservation-conscious by mapping his home farm of 267 acres and two other neighborhood farms showing the types of soil and what needed to be done to keep the soil from washing away. In addition, he built 9 miles of terraces on the home farm.

## VIII. BUILDING HEALTH FOR A STRONG AMERICA

In New York State alone, 3,310 members of 4-H Clubs were enrolled in a health project. They checked their food and health habits, gave demonstrations on safety, took health examinations, corrected remediable defects, and many of them took advantage of protective immunization as recommended by their health officer. Under a similar plan in Idaho, Bannock County reported that 12 young folks obtained glasses, 17 corrected conditions of infected tonsils and sore throats, 58 had dental work done, 21 made improvement in posture, and 115 improved health habits.



IX. SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

Through 4-H work, young people can harness their energy to improve the social desirability of their communities as places to live by. Lloyd Cockrell of New Mexico got interested in rural electrification through his 4-H Club and wired the schoolhouse so that the community could have evening meetings and parties. Jimmy Clay of Georgia got interested in farm fence preservation through his club work. The Board of County Commissioners were interested in his ideas and his enthusiasm. They have already set up an appropriation for a county creosoting plant for the county for fence posts, bridge timber, and light poles for rural electrification and will go ahead as soon as conditions permit.

X. SERVING AS CITIZENS IN MAINTAINING WORLD PEACE

Realizing that good citizenship begins at home and that good neighborliness among nations is dependent on good neighbors in the community, 4-H Club work offers programs in getting acquainted with those of other nations and studying international relations. As a result, the 4-H Clubs of Iowa have raised money to bring a Chinese student to this country to study our agriculture and the way we live. The Minnesota 4-H radio speaking contest chose for its subject last year "Why I believe education for peaceful living is necessary." The speeches of 78 county winners were broadcast on local radio stations 15 hours of broadcasting time. Speeches of the champion and the alternate were broadcast over a network of State stations.